

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
Transportation Technical Committee
January 10, 2007
Minutes

Attendees: Fritz Alderman (Town of Culpeper Engineering), James Arrington (Madison County Board of Supervisors), Michael Barnes (VRTA), Marshall Barron (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), Elroy Bentick (VDRPT – Richmond), Rick Carr (Fauquier County Planning), Mike Collins (Town of Orange Planning), Chris Conti (RRRC), Liz Cook (Fauquier County Planning), John Cooley (Culpeper County Planning), John Egertson - *Vice-Chairperson* (Culpeper County Planning), Larry Fanton (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), John Giometti (VDOT – Culpeper Residency), John W. McCarthy (Rappahannock County Administration), Patrick Mauney (RRRC), Chris Mothersead – *Chairperson* (Town of Warrenton Planning), Ray Parks (Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services Board), John Shelburne (VDOT Transportation & Mobility Planning –Richmond), Darryl Shifflett (VDOT-Warrenton Residency), Chuck Stephenson (Town of Culpeper Engineering), Jeff Walker (RRRC), Cathy Zielinski (RRRC/Aging Together)

Welcome and Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, Matters from the Public

Mr. Mothersead brought the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Members and staff of the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission Rural Technical Committee (RTC) introduced themselves.

The RTC approved the agenda for the January 10, 2007 meeting.

Mr. McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cook to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2006, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

No members of the public were present.

Presentation by Culpeper County and the Town of Culpeper of Comprehensive and/or Strategic Plan Transportation Priorities

Mr. Egertson, Director of Planning for Culpeper County, presented the county's regional transportation issues to the RTC. Transportation planning in the county was showcased within the context of the comprehensive plan, which included a discussion of the county's functional roadway classification map, scenic roads and byways, area plans (Route 29 South Corridor, Route 15/29 Business Corridor, Town and County Loop Road, Culpeper Regional Airport) and the bike route plan. The county's 2007 primary road priorities were also discussed.

Questions from the committee pertained to proposed transportation improvements at the intersection of Routes 211 and 229. Mr. Egertson replied that the responsibility and timing of the proposed improvements were tied to the private developer of Clevengers Corner (Centex Homes), and pace of the development (i.e. issuance of the occupancy permits) currently underway.

Mr. Alderman, assistant engineer for the Town of Culpeper, presented the town's regional transportation issues to the RTC. Similar to the county, transportation planning was presented within the context of the comprehensive plan, which included a discussion of the town's functional roadway classification map, future roadway improvements, future and existing bike routes and sidewalk improvement projects.

Mr. Giometti commended the County and Town of Culpeper for their ongoing cooperation concerning transportation planning and joint use of transportation funding for mutually beneficial projects.

Review of Fauquier County and the Town of Warrenton and Remington's Regional Priorities and Discussion of Preliminary Draft RLRP Goals and Objectives

Mr. Conti reminded that one of the central functions of the presentations by RTC jurisdictions of their transportation priorities was to enable the concurrent development of a regional transportation priority listing with accompanying maps, the Fauquier and Warrenton drafts of which had been distributed shortly following the last meeting. Upon review of these drafts, no changes to the Fauquier County, Town of Warrenton and Town of Remington's regional priorities were requested.

It was also again affirmed that priorities from each jurisdiction would simply be conveyed as is, i.e., not be ranked against one another.

Mr. Conti next presented the draft regional long-range plan (RLRP) goals and objectives. The committee was receptive to the goals and objectives as presented with the exception of suggestions pertaining to an increased emphasis on the linkage between land use and transportation planning. The goals and objectives are to be revised to reflect this concern and presented at the next RTC meeting for approval.

Presentation of Preliminary Draft Regional Rail Study

Mr. Mauney presented the preliminary draft regional rail study with accompanying graphics. Discussion centered on recent rail studies and initiatives in the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) area, in addition to regional freight, commuter and passenger rail.

Mr. Carr informed the committee of Fauquier County's interest in joining the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC).

Announcements and Other Business

Mr. Walker distributed a handout listing eligible activities for funding under VDOT's proposed Multi-Modal Planning Grant Program, currently under comment. Mr. Barron and Mr. Giometti described the draft program guidelines, including proposed milestones/timelines, use of consultants, and anticipated monies to be made available.

Mr. Giometti and Mr. Walker announced an upcoming corridor study initiative to be conducted by the University of Virginia's Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems. The study will focus on road corridor preservation in areas of high growth and development pressure, and among other possible segments, will be looking at a stretch of Route 15/29 north of the Town of Warrenton.

Mr. Walker and Mr. Mothersead referenced the ongoing National Capital Region (NCR)'s Evacuation and Sheltering Plan initiative and its potential implications for PD9 jurisdictions, as an adjoining region's effort. Mr. Walker indicated that a detailed briefing meeting for area officials, with presenters from VDEM, Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, NCR, and consultant Baker Corporation was in the process of being scheduled.

Mr. Barron referenced an initiative by the General Assembly and VDOT to implement impact fees on "by-right" development, offering it as a possible future topic for discussion.

Lastly, Mr. Walker indicated that RRRC had been invited to give a presentation on the Rural Transportation Technical Committee model at an upcoming VDOT Transportation Planning Workshop, scheduled for February 13.

There being no further business, Mr. Mothersead adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the RTC will be held at 2 p.m. on **Wed, February 7, 2007**, at the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission offices.